

JAP3' ABILITY IN COMMERCE.

Japan realizes fully that in modern power ability in commerce counts as much as ability in war. When Baron Komura had a day off, during the conference, he spent it studying the cotton mills at Manchester. Fortified by her new foothold in the East by the renewal of her British treaty, Japan will be so moderately occupied with military considerations that she can throw her full force into trade. Commerce, which has been a degrading calling on the island, will become an honorable one, the dishonesty which grew out of social degradation will diminish, and Japanese merchants will become as honest as those of Germany, America, England, or perhaps, even China. From Japan's expanded power, the United States, like other lands, will benefit, from strong and wholesome competition and from what we have learned about self-subordination, hygiene, manners, and other attractive subjects. In Russia's problems, and in her national development and emancipation, this country will sympathize also, and whatever triumphs Russia achieves we shall share. The world becomes every year a smaller unit, in which each part influences more immediately every other. Russia, like other countries, would get the benefit of general sympathy more rapidly if she took some lessons in manners from Japan. Witte's boasting after the Portsmouth settlement, contrasted harshly with the brilliantly intelligent modesty of the Japanese. The Russians, even more than other western nations, are in some ways barbaric compared to cultivated Asiatics, but their future is not less promising for that. The difficulties which they are compelled to meet are manifold and dark. Mr. Witte himself, at present the symbol of enlightenment to foreign countries, is no believer in sweeping changes. He has always stood for cautious progress, and he has well understood that Russian peasants care more for food and religious liberty than they do for what American, French, or English look upon as political rights. The Russian peasant is not addicted to political theorizing. A cataclysm may possibly come to Russia, unsurpassed since 1789, but in greater probability that vast country, influenced by the world, will pick her way cautiously through explosive dangers, and reach unity and calm with almost as little commotion as is attended the cementing of the German people.

English Marriage Rate.

The marriage rate is higher in England than elsewhere, being 15 a 1,000. In most other countries it varies from 7 to 10 a 1,000. The highest birth rate, according to a volume of statistics, referring chiefly to foreign countries, issued by the British Board of Trade, is in Roumania—30 a 1,000. That country also has the highest death rate, 27.7 a 1,000. The lowest marriage rate is in Sweden, where it is .9 a 1,000.

Oath According to the Koran.

Ali Achmet, an Arab, was a witness in the New York court of special sessions recently. He refused to take the Christian oath, saying he would swear as becomes a member of his race and faith. He was allowed to do so, and this was the oath he took: "I swear by the beard of the prophet, by the kasba, by the black stone and by my harem to tell the truth, all the truth, and only the truth."

Supplies All Household Needs.

A firm in New York has contracted to supply a large number of complete houses, including decorations and the engagement of servants, for \$90,000.

Green Visible Afar Off.

In clear weather and by daylight green is visible at the greatest distance of any color, much further, for instance, than scarlet, which is usually imagined to be the most brilliant of colors. Indeed, blue, and even dark gray, are far more visible at a distance than is scarlet.

Strange Foods.

Certain Indians consider earth worms a dainty. They are dried and rolled together into a peculiar flour. In Bahama and some of the Florida keys the conch is eaten—by far the toughest food known; more like India rubber than anything else, having to be beaten and pounded before it can be masticated or even cooked.

Bacon's Prophetic Words.

Roger Bacon (1214-94) may have foreseen the possibility of making dynamite and other powerful explosives when he wrote the following words: "A small portion of matter, about the size of the thumb, properly disposed, will make a tremendous sound and commotion, by which cities and armies might be destroyed."

Canton the Paris of China.

Canton is the Paris of the far East, the fashion center of that picturesque country of lilies and tea. All the aristocratic Celestials, in whatever part of the world they may be, still watch that center with eager interest for the decree put forth every year by that capricious authority of southern China.

Largest Sun Dial.

There is a large promontory in the Egean sea, known as Hayon Horoo, which extends 3,000 feet above the level of the water. As the sun swings around the shadow of this mountain touches one by one a circle of islands separated by regular intervals, which act as hour marks. It is the largest sun dial in the world.

Where Hairpins Come From.

The hairpins come from Painswick, a village in the Stroud valley, England. There is the greatest hairpin factory in the world. Strangely enough, this factory employs only 300 persons, the machinery used being automatic and requiring but little attention as it grinds miles of wire into tons of hairpins.

To Remove Varnish.

To remove varnish from the hands and also from the brushes with which it is applied wash with a little spirit. This done, wipe with an old rag or soft paper as clean as possible and then wash again with soap and water. For brushes the water should not be more than lukewarm.

Change in Readers' Tastes.

The writer of short stories who succeeds in marketing his wares nowadays sometimes wonders if Maggie Tulliver, Little Nell or Col. Newcome would be allowed to die in a modern magazine office.

How Gas Consumes Air.

An ordinary gas light, sixteen candle power, consumes as much air in an hour as four men.

Deaths From Cancer.

A French physician, Dr. Foucault, has found that in 11,048 deaths investigated by him, 759, or 7 per cent, resulted from cancer. He could not find that heredity was a factor in the cause of the disease.

Unless It is a Very Foggy Day.

You can make a girl believe she has curly hair by saying so.—New York Press.

Disappear in the Sea.

Statisticians find that something like 2,000 vessels of all sorts disappear in the sea every year, never to be heard from again, taking with them 12,000 human beings and involving a money loss of \$100,000,000.

Sensible Man.

There's a man in Chicago who says that what he likes best about his wife is that she is sensible.

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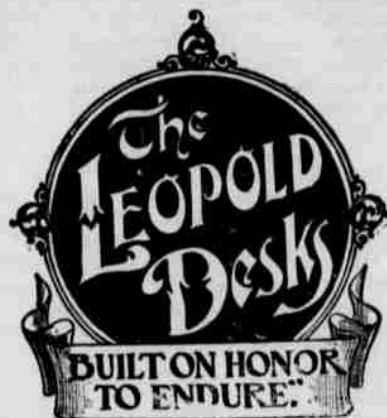
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